Next GARS meeting on October 12 @ 7:00 p.m. At St. Marguerite Church "Beams without Towers"

GARzeffe

The official newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
Oct 2010 http://www.gars.org/ Volume 19, Issue 10

A note from the President

September brought us a great meeting about radio go kits and it appears October will not disappoint either. Our program manager, Sandy, KJ4DRO has lined up a program on beams without towers, which I am sure will be educational and fascinating.



The club itself had several changes in September. Ray N4GYN took up the position of Garzette Editor, which Norm WA4ZXV has been temporarily manning for the last few months. Also, Dave W4DTR has taken over the membership chairman position from Bill WB4WTN who has manned that post for the last six years. The next time you see one of these folks, please remember to thank them for their service to these jobs and the others they do. These positions take time and effort, and are all important to the success of the club.

Please clear your calendar and make sure to attend the GARS Fall Frequency Festival this year on October 16th from 9am to 3pm at the church where we hold our meetings in Lawrenceville. It is a miniature Field Day type event where we get together, eat, have a good time, and play radio. The event coincides with the Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) where GARS and Venture Crew 73 help scouts get on the air to earn merit badges. There is more to it than that, but suffice it to say that it is a lot of fun for young and old, and gives us a great chance to introduce the next generation to the wonderful world of amateur radio.

As I write this I see that the Stone Mountain hamfest is just over a month away. I am already putting my list together. I talk with hams from around the country and so many of them have never even been to a hamfest because there is not one near where they live. We are so lucky to have the best hamfest in the area take place right here in our own county. I will talk more about this next month. A great friend of mine always reminds me to not wish time away, but I just cannot wait for the hamfest weekend to arrive.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the next GARS meeting.

73, *Kyle* , w4KDA

Fall Frequency Festival and JOTA October 16th

...at St Marguerite Church. It's fall and time for another GARS operating event and lunch. And time for the Annual Scouts Jamboree On The Air. Join GARS and invited scouts for a day of radio fun. More on page 3...

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DON'T FORGET to set your clocks BACK Saturday night, November 6th when we go back to Eastern STANDARD Time.



Whisky November Papa: A Tale for Halloween

Had it not been a dark and stormy night I wouldn't even have been in my ham shack. It was Halloween, after all, and ordinarily I'd have been handing out candy to the veritable parade of midget monsters and diminutive divas at my front door; but it was dark and stormy, so eventually I drifted into my radio room.

Knowing that I might have to jump up at any moment to make a run for the front door, I dared not start a rag chew with the big rig; instead I decided this was a good evening to fire up the old antique and hear our bands through the unique circuitry of a 1930-something regen. As the tubes warmed up, I settled into my chair at the vintage operating position in my shack. Gradually the speaker came to life and weak CW signals could



be discerned through a bit of low-band QRN. I confess that at first I didn't pay close attention. I simply enjoyed the lack of selectivity in this old receiver that allowed me to hear quite a few QSOs simultaneously, each with their distinctive notes.

Even with my mind wandering amongst thoughts of Halloween and glowing vacuum tubes, I half-consciously started paying attention to the call signs coming through this old radio, a radio, incidentally, that had virtually no band pass filtering. With a radio of this vintage I had to use the same skills as the ancient ones: filtration was provided by the human brain. It takes real concentration to sort out signals and follow a single QSO. Surprisingly, it is possible. After a few minutes it seemed almost natural to select one signal and concentrate solely on that conversation.

So with my attention riveted to one QSO, it was a bit surprising that I gradually became aware of another transmission, a strange wavering signal that drifted in and out of my consciousness. It was always in the background, just a dB or two above the noise floor. Sometimes it was zero beat and a few characters were readily copied. Other times the notes would waver to a higher or lower audio frequency and drift out of my mental pass band.

Suddenly I copied a fragment of code that took my breath away. For a moment the musical note was zero beat and I clearly copied, "1ANA DE WNP." My first thought was that I had missed a few characters. Surely there must have been a W or K in front of the 1ANA; and WNP couldn't be an amateur call: it was missing the numeral. But almost as soon as these thoughts formed in my mind I realized these calls were, indeed, familiar, even famous. Familiar and famous they might be; but equally impossible that I could be copying them!

Fans of early radio know these famous calls. WNP was the station aboard the *Bowdoin*, the legendary schooner that in 1923 carried the MacMillan Arctic Expedition and established the first radio contact from Arctic explorers in the frozen north. What a revolution! Prior to the *Bowdoin's* success with radio, Arctic expeditions simply disappeared from public perception for months or even years while locked in the Arctic ice.

I couldn't believe my ears. Was this a hoax? Was I dreaming? If a hoax, it was certainly elaborate. The signals sounded authentic. Now I realized why the notes were wavering and musical: they weren't crystal controlled. A transmitter from 1923 would probably be something on the order of a two-tube Hartley oscillator. Frequency was determined by tuned circuits in the output stages; and those output stages included the antenna. Under windy conditions, the frequency changed with gusts of wind.

(Continued on Page 11)



Join Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society and Venture Crew 73 for our

Fall Frequency Festival

and the 53rd Annual

Jamboree on the Air

Saturday, October 16th, 9am to 3pm St. Marguerite d'Youville Church in Lawrenceville



Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) is a world wide scouting event held the third Saturday in October each year. Scouts from all over the world will join with amateur radio operators and have the opportunity to talk to other scouts in countries all around the world.

No training is required and a patch is available.

As part of this worldwide event, we are hosting a **Fall Frequency Festival**. Come join us for hot dogs and talk to Scouts across the country and around the world.

This event is FREE - Scouts and Adults of All Ages are Welcome

Activities will include:

Fox Hunt games (radio search and recovery)
Hot dogs, chips, and drinks
Amateur Radio Stations – make contact with Scouts around the world
Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) command trailer tours
Radio and Signaling Merit Badge classes (registration required)

Boy Scouts - Earn a Merit Badge in a Day

Come to the JOTA Fall Frequency Event and earn the Radio or Signaling Merit Badge Troops must pre-register Scouts for the classes on www.meritbadge.info
No pre-requisites, Fees: Signaling MB is \$10 (Morse kit), Radio MB is free Bring a signed Blue Card and a copy of the Merit Badge booklet

Merit Badge Class schedule

8:00am Check in for classes 9:00am Classes begin

12:00pm Break for lunch (hot dogs and chips provided by GARS)

1:00pm-2:30pm Finish badge requirements. Make radio contacts around the world

For more info, contact

Jeff Lee or Steve Back - Venture Crew 73 Kyle Albritton - GARS President Email: jota10@venturecrew73.org www.gars.org www.venturecrew73.org

AFTER THE HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST

...Earl, AF4FG

As a child, the day after Christmas all I wanted was to play with all the new toys that hadn't been broken yet. The day after the Huntsville Hamfest all I got to do was drive home, and when I got back there was nothing new to play with. Of all that was on my wish list I only got the little stuff. The big stuff wasn't there because it hasn't been released yet. Still, there were some very good forums and the best among them was the one on sun spots.

Dr. David Hathaway is NASA's sun spot guru. His job is to keep up with all solar activity to keep NASA's space program out of trouble, but his passion is sun spots. He knows his stuff and he knows how to present it in an entertaining way so that I really learned something even if some things did go way over my head. He has a new model for predicting sun spots and his prediction for this cycle is disappointing. He believes this will be the worst cycle in over 100 years and that it will peak next March. I wish I could say I didn't believe it but recent activity supports his prediction.

I was looking forward to Phil Anderson's (W0XI) forum on locating power line noise and listening to bats and insects with a 35-45 kHz receiver. It was kind of entertaining but the equipment needed cost over \$200 and, since I don't speak any "bat" and I don't see any frequent use for the device I think I'll spend my money on something else.

There were quite a few other forums including 3 hours on D-Star hosted by our own John Davis, WB4QDX, Scott Hartlage, KF4PWI, and Robin Cutshaw, AA4RC. Jim Stafford, W4QO and another Georgia ham familiar to most of us, hosted a forum on QRP. There were also forums hosted by manufacturers to explain and promote their products. If you wanted to, you could have spent the first hour looking through the bone yard and the rest of the day attending forums.

It turns out that it wasn't Christmas but I got my Hamfest "fix" and it should last till November. Maybe if I'm a good boy I can get something then.

Meeting Minutes ... Hal Collier, W4IGE, Secretary

September 2010 GARS General Meeting

September 14, 2010

Kyle Albritton, W4KDA, President, called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Introductions of first time visitors and others present were made.

Business

Treasurer's Report – Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC, reported the following:

CD balance \$6,201.00 Money Market balance \$2,348.00 Checking Account balance \$6,430.00 Total \$14,980.15

Committee Reports:

Membership – Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN, reported no new applications for membership:

Eddie Geike, no license. Rob Sanctuary, N4YWR Nancy Sactuary, KD4MZI Rosemary Pesciteli, KE4FKK Zachary Pesciteli, KJ4YJA

Techfest – Norm Schlar, WA4ZXV, reported the following:

Techfest will be on 1/8/2011. Norm is seeking ideas for new demonstrations. Youth area will be run by NFARL

VE Team Report – Dave Bruse, W4DTR, reported the following:

4 applicants for Technician. 3pm Sunday VE Session \$14 W5YI

Randy Collins, N4COR, announced the Christmas Party on December 10th. The price will be \$10 per person.

Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM, is running for the office of Vice Director for the ARRL South Eastern Division. She gave a quick campaign speech. Elections are in October.

Break

The program was demonstrations of radio go-kits. There were kits from John Davis WB4QDX, Hal Collier W4IGE, David Adcock KA4KKF, Amy Woodrick KE4IKF and Tim Blitch N4EEE

Prize drawing.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Working the CQWW RTTY DX contest.

By Norm WA4ZXV

Not a lot to it, but:

Setup your software. Seems simple enough, but since I haven't used it in months and I'm always tinkering with software and hardware, testing means making a few contacts. To do this, make sure your software is looking to the correct sound card, make sure your levels are acceptable, and make sure your rig control is compatible with the software and the radio. Make sure there is enough space at the operating position for a piece of paper, a pen, keyboard, key and mouse. And space for a beverage either hot or cold depending on the time of day, also, a telephone and your cell phone. You don't want the phone waking the family because you were too far away to answer. If you plan on running any power, make sure the RF isn't interfering with the family. Its best to print the contest rules and have them handy. You'll probably want to look something up in the middle of the contest.

Selecting software seems easy enough, but it hasn't been for me. HRD's DM780 does a great job of decoding, logging and sending, but it isn't a contest log and doesn't report on certain pieces of information that help increase the score. N1MM and Write Log are great contest packages, but in my opinion are harder to use. I forgot I have N3FJP which I've also used in the past and it probably would have been a good choice. I've had both working in the past, but Thursday when I was doing my setup, they just wouldn't cooperate. So I used HRD. Logging is important if you want to upload to the contest manager and LOTW. It seems the digital or RTTY folks are the quickest at uploading their scores. I guess it's because everything is already software driven and outputting the scores isn't all that complicated. In my case I had to export from HRD and import to N1MM to get the type of files the contest manager wanted. It just took a few minutes.

I try to have what I think I'll need close. Every interruption costs contacts. Living in the house with XYL and daughter makes it hard to just sit for very long. They always seem to need something or have a question when I have a good session going. But they put up with my strange sounds and occasional noise on a TV or radio and we've been together 44years. So I do what they want.

I usually keep a [DX] cluster running so I can see where the activity is. If a band opens, I try to be watching for it and move to the new opening. 10 meters is the hardest to watch for, because it comes and goes so quickly. But I keep half an eye on the cluster to make those contacts. This time I was looking for new countries. My priority was to complete my first DXCC with LOTW. So I looked, listened, tuned around, skipped some of the contacts that didn't help me with new countries. You can tell from other folks scores that I'm slow. I could work most everything I could hear, but I was just too slow about getting to the next contact. I have this same problem with SSB and CW, so I don't think I can blame anything other than practice. I use the mouse whenever I can. I noticed the better operators use function keys. Butt in the chair is another one of my problems. I just have too much ADD to sit for long.

All aside, I had fun with the CQWW RTTY DX contest. Looking forward to the next one!

Norm, WA4ZXV

BSA Venture Crew 73 Wants You

If you are between 14 and 21 years old, enjoy outdoor activities, and have an interest in radio technology, Venture Crew 73 is for you.

- Venture Crews are part of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Venture crew 73 is chartered by the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society.
 - Venture crew 73 is coed.
- Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the St. Marguerite D'Youville Catholic Church, 85 Gloster Rd. NW, Lawrenceville, GA 30044.
- Crew 73 is a youth-run organization, which means that our Crew President and other youth plan the Crew's outings and activities each month.

We enjoy:

- o Camping
- o Hiking
- o Horse Back Riding
- o Shooting Sports
- Crew activities usually mix high adventure and the use of amateur radio.
- For more information, attend our next meeting or contact:

Steve Back, WB2OGY Venture Crew 73 Committee Chairman Phone: 770-712-9069

Email: committeechair@venturecrew73.org

Jeff Lee, AF4JL Venture Crew 73 Advisor Phone: 678-475-3165

Email: advisor@venturecrew73.org

GARS officers and committee chairs

Kyle Albritton, W4KDA President

Earl Whatley, AF4FG Vice President

Hal Collier, W4IGE Secretary

Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC Treasurer, Apparel Manager

Sandy Jackson, KJ4DRO Program Manager

Dave Bruse, W4DTR Membership Chairman VE Team

David Adcock, KA4KKF Webmaster, Field Day Chairman

Dorothy Jubon, N2DLJ Public Information Officer

Norm Sckhlar, WA4ZXV TechFest Chairman

Ray Bailey, N4GYN GARzette Editor

Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN W4GR Trustee

Eddie Foust, WD4JEM Repeater Chairman

Mike Weathers, ND4V WAS-Checker

Joel Barrett, W4JOL Net Manager

Mike Swiderski, K4HBI Technical Advisor

GARS communication system

70 Cm Repeater 444.525(+) MHz 82.5 PL Tone

APRS 144.390 -- 1200 Baud W4GR

6 Meter Repeater 53.110 (-1 MHz) 82.5 PL Tone

D-Star WD4STR 145.060 + (1.4 MHz) 440.550 + (5 MHz)

2 Meter Repeater 147.075(+) MHz 82.5 PL Tone

Main Repeater Site Oak Street, Lawrenceville

Backup Repeater Site Lanier Mountain, Snellville

Metro Atlanta VE Exam Schedule

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at www.arrl-ga.org.

First Saturday, Even Months

9 a.m. EOC Building Butch Nitz, AF4FS (770) 968-8780

First Wednesday

7 p.m. ARRL/VEC Roberts School 4681 School Street, Acworth Jodi Escher AG4BK (770) 387-1591

Second Saturday, Odd Months

ARRL VEC 8:30 a.m. Stone Mountain Methodist Church 5312 West Mountain St. Stone Mountain Bob Varone, W4ETN (770) 978-3179

Third Saturday

CA VEC 9 a.m. Marietta First United Meth. Church Room 305, 56 Whitlock Ave. Marietta David Still, WB4RRD (707) 973-2566

Third Sunday

W5YI VEC 3-5 p.m. Lawrenceville Masonic Lodge 465 S. Perry St. Lawrenceville, GA 30044 (770) 963-5721

(cont. next column)

Ham exam results for Sunday, September 19.

We had seven VE's present:

Frank Sauciunas KF4TQV
Steve Back WB2OGY
David Bruse W4DTR
John Kludt K7SYS
Brian Page N4TRB
Bill Cherepy WB4WTN
Mark Fehlig WA6NGC

We had three take their Technician Exam.

Test results:

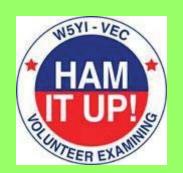
2 new Technicians1 failed Technician

Frank Sauciunas Amateur Radio: KF4TOV

Webmaster: Lawrenceville Lodge No. 131

Lodge Web Page: http://lvlodge131.org

E-mail: mailto:kf4tqv@charter.net http://webpages.charter.net/kf4tqv



Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC 7 p.m. United Way Service Center 6279 Fairburn Rd. Douglasville

Fourth Sunday

2:30 p.m. Georgia Tech VanLeer Elec. Building Rm. W218 77 Atlantic Dr. See www.w4aql.com Alexander G. Carver (404) 894-2936 acarver@ece.gatech.edu

Metro Club Meetings

First Tuesday

Kennehoochee ARC Southern Polytechnic State University Meeting begins at 7:30 PM Talk In 146.880(-)

First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club Georgia Red Cross HQ 1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta Meeting is at 7:30 PM Talk In -146.820(-) N.E. Georgia ARC Commerce Public Library Meeting is at 6:30 PM Talk In - 147.225(+) PL 123.0

Second Monday

Georgia Tech ARC Room W218 Van Leer Electrical Engineering Bldg. Georgia Tech Campus Meeting at 7:00 PM

Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club Annistown Road Baptist Church Intersection of Annistown Rd & Spain Rd Stone Mountain Dinner at 6:00 PM Meeting at 7:30 PM Talk In - 146.760(-)

Second Saturday

North GA QRP Club Wieuca Baptist Church on Peachtree Rd/Wieuca, at 10:00 AM

Third Tuesday

North Fulton Amateur Radio League Masonic Lodge 194 Milton Avenue Alpharetta, Georgia meeting at 7:30 PM Talk In - 145.47(-)

GARS APPAREL ORDER FORM

Companies and the Colonia Co	KEL OKDEK I	OKM
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NAME TO BE EMBROIDERED:		
CALL SIGN TO BE EMBROIDE	RED:	
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T-SHIRT		
Red WITHOUT na	me & call	\$20.00
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Red WITH name &	t call	\$20.00
White WITH name	& call	\$20.00
GOLF SHIRT WITHOU	JT name & call	
Red	\$24.00	
White	\$24.00	
GOLF SHIRT WITH na	me & call	
Red	\$28.00	
White	\$28.00	
SWEATSHIRT		
Red WITHOUT na	me & call	\$30.00
White WITHOUT	name & call	
\$30.00		
Red WITH name &	z call	\$30.00
White WITH name	S No March Color	\$30.00
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HEAVYWEIGHT JACKE		
WITHOUT name &		\$41.00
WITH name & call		\$45.00
GARS BADGE WITH r		\$9.00
HAT WITHOUT name &		\$2.00
Red	\$9.00	
White	\$9.00	
HAT WITH name & call	del Conservation del co	
Red	\$14.00	
White	\$14.00	
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TOTAL ORDER PRICE:

Please attach your check made payable to GARS and return to Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC or mail to:

GARS, P.O. Box 88, Lilburn, Georgia 30048

NOTE: Please allow at least 4 weeks for delivery of items.

What's new on the WEB SITE?

The web site now features an upload and download section. Any file (amateur radio related) that you would like to share with the web site, you may post.

The file size limit is 6MB. You should notice a change to the user menu. It will change when you log in to give you more options.

Are you using the web site to renew your membership? Do you get the GARZETTE from the web site?

73, David KA4KKF





Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society PO Box 88 Lilburn, GA 30048

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

GARS USE ONLY		
Date App Rcvd	/	/
Pmt Rcvd	/	
Payment Amt \$		_
Mem Appr _		_/
Database _	/_	/

ION Mem Appr/			
.org			
License Class ☐ Novice ☐ Technician ☐ General			
Advanced Extra			
Zip			
Work Telephone			
Date of Birth //(mm/dd/yy)			
Optional Contributions			
Repeater Fund \$			
Scholarship Fund \$e address			
Date of Birth/(mm/dd/yy)			
a ARRL Member □Yes □ No □ Life			
Date of Birth//(mm/dd/yy)			
a ARRL Member □Yes □ No □Life			
I agree to abide by the By-Laws of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society and understand that membership is subject to the approval of the Club.			
///			

TechFest 2011

January 8, 2011, Lawrenceville, GA sponsored by the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

WORLD WIDE DISTRIBUTION



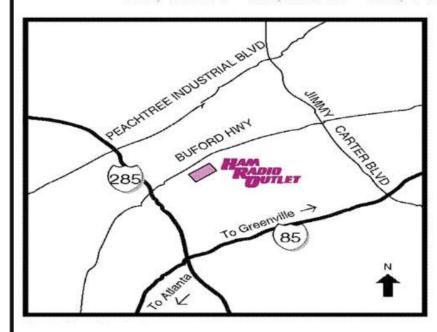
Mark Holmes Manager KJ4VO 6071 Buford Highway

Atlanta, GA 30340 (Doraville) 770-263-0700 1-800-444-7927

Fax: 770-263-9548

e-mail: atlanta@hamradio.com hours: 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat.

John, KI4LMA Bill, W5RQR David, AI4XL Tom, KB4HQA Dale, W4GCL Jim, N1ABM Josh, W4JDH Brian, WD4DX



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Arrow M2
Butternut Valor
Create Van Gorden
Kenwood

Tarheel MFJ
Heil Ameritron
Comet

West Mountain

Whisky November Papa: A Tale for Halloween—continued from page 2

These signals were wandering around the band such that only my ancient receiver could have picked them up. My modern big rig, even with the filters

wide open, would have been way too selective to follow this drift. Listening to the notes, I imagined the cold howling winds that drove these musical tones.

I copied more code: "latitude 79-degrees North....all well aboard the *Bowdoin*....locked in the ice....ready for the winter lay over....received news from NAA...signals more reliable with the almost continual darkness...."

Whether hoax or not, the feeling was electric. I had goose-bumps; and the hair on my neck stood up. I didn't question how. Whatever was happening was beyond reason. I just copied; and my heart went out to these steadfast operators who labored under such challenging conditions to advance the art of radio science and create an etheral bridge across thousands of miles separating explorers from home and loved ones.

Suddenly, again I was startled. What! That noise? There it was again. Oh, the doorbell. I glanced at my watch: 21:30. That meant the neighborhood teens in their hastily improvised Halloween costumes had arrived to clean up the remaining candy in the bowl. I welcomed their efforts and achieved my goal of getting those sweet temptations out of the house.

Then I raced back to the shack just in time to catch the last couple of characters of this precious, musical signal, "73 OM WNP now QRT." Then there was nothing to be heard but static crashes. The band was dead.

Post Script

Don Mix, W1TS, the intrepid op aboard the *Bowdoin* in 1923 and *QST* Assistant Technical Editor, wrote 114 articles for *QST*. His first appeared in 1920 under his callsign 1TS; his last article was published in 1968, less than a year before this story-teller joined the ARRL. Mix's true account of the expedition appeared in the November, 1924 issue.

By Anonymous

GARS Recurring Calendar

- Monthly club meeting is the <u>2nd Tuesday</u> of the month at 7 p.m. Check the <u>website</u> for location.
- Every Monday at 8 p.m.: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 2-meter repeater.
- Every Wednesday at 9 p.m.: GARS 6-meter net on the GARS 6-meter repeater.
- Every Saturday at 7:30 a.m.: GARS
 Weekly Family Breakfast, Golden Corral
 Restaurant, Riverside Drive, Lawrence ville.

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References available upon request.